

ROYAL RIFLES READY.

Esquima Harbor to Be Strongly Defended.

An important letter has been received here by a wealthy Englishman temporarily in California and now at the Palace, from an officer in the British navy, which seems to indicate that Great Britain, in case the Bering Sea difficulty is not decided to suit her, may resort to arms. Troops have been ordered to hold themselves in readiness, while other troops and warships have been ordered forward to Victoria, Esquima and Vancouver.

The letter states, among other things, that cautionary orders have been issued to the Fourth Battalion of the Royal Rifle Brigades, now at Devonport, south of England, consisting of 1000 men, to hold themselves in readiness to leave at any time for Victoria, on Colonial station duty.

The officer, who is a leading one in the British navy, asks what the climate is at Esquima and Victoria, and what clothing it will be necessary to take there. The Englishman who has received the letter is, it may be stated, an intimate friend of the officer, having known him a long while. The former is a very wealthy man, and has been in different parts of the East, British Columbia and California for some months. At present he is here in regard to a purchase of large importance.

"The rifle brigade alluded to is with the Sixtieth (King's Royal Rifles)," said the gentleman yesterday, "the most active service regiment of Her Majesty's Household Brigade, and each consists of four battalions of 1000 men each. They are particularly famous for having seen more active service than any other two regiments in the British army."

"In addition to this the letter states that her majesty's ship Minotaur, one of the most powerful battle ships in the British navy, has also been especially commanded for general duty at Esquima. The commander of that vessel has been appointed naval commandant, and the colonel of the Royal Brigade has been appointed military commandant of the station, succeeding the present dock yard superintendent of Esquima and Colonel Pryor of the Canadian forces, who have hitherto held these posts."

"Two battalions of Royal Marine Artillery are also under orders, my letter continues, for station duty at Victoria and Vancouver, and it is understood that the Canadian authorities are taking steps to thoroughly overhaul and place in the most defensible condition the fortifications at those places, in accordance with the recent recommendations of General Herbert, the Commander-in-Chief."

"Her majesty's ship Minotaur and the flagship Alexandria, it will be remembered," pursued the gentleman, "took a very prominent part in the bombardment of Alexandria in 1883. Taking these arrangements, with the subsidy granted to the Canadian Pacific Railway by the Imperial Government for the speedy transportation of troops in case of emergency, it may be considered that the North Pacific station will be in a stronger position than any other point in the British colonial domain."

"It will be recalled that about a week ago Her Majesty's ship Royal Arthur arrived at Esquima, with Admiral Stevenson aboard. The Arthur is one of the most powerful vessels of the British navy. The feature of the order to vessels, however, will be seen in reference to the Minotaur. She has been specially detailed for the use of Esquima harbor, and is not attached to the fleet, but is stationary."

The question at this time is, Why is all this being done? Evidently something more than usual is on hand, and the gentleman who has received the letter holds to the same view. Something is believed to be in the wind. It will be recalled that two or three weeks ago, during the session of the Behring sea tribunal, Sir Charles Russell, in alluding to the possibility of the final decision being unfavorable to Great Britain, said the decision might be a moral obligation, but not a legal one. For this Baron Courcelle, president of the tribunal, sharply rebuked him. It may be the Behring sea matter, and it would seem that it is, that is causing Great Britain to more strongly fortify the northern harbor."

The Royal Arthur was launched at Portsmouth on February 26, 1891, a great crowd, the Queen and most of the royal family being present. The Royal Arthur is a screw cruiser of 7700 tons, 12,000 horse-power and carries twelve guns. Her name was originally Centaur, but it was changed by order of the Duke of Connaught, and finally at the last moment, by the Queen's command, to the Royal Arthur. She is of the latest type of first class cruisers and has a speed of twenty knots.

The Minotaur is an iron broadside ship of 10,600 tons displacement and 6700 indicated horse power. She has a length of 400 feet and beam of 59.4. She is equipped with seventeen twelve-ton guns and can carry 750 tons of coal.

Outside of the Mediterranean, the Esquima harbor is probably the most impregnable harbor in the world. There are almost six fathoms of water in every part, and the harbor is almost completely land-locked. Its extreme length is two miles and its average width half a mile. It is about three miles and a half northwest of Victoria. On the south side is the stone dry dock, recently completed. It is capable of accommodating the largest vessels afloat. Undoubtedly it is one of the most important naval stations of the British Government. The length of the dock

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STATIONERS, News and Music Dealers,

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AND ALL KINDS OF

Leather and Nails for Shoemakers.

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42, 56 and 63 bars to case—

One Hundred Pounds.

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Lubricating Oils, in quality and efficiency surpassed by none.

General Merchandise,

it is not possible to list everything we have; if there is anything you want, come and ask for it, you will be politely treated.

No trouble to show goods.

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Nature's Grandest Wonder.

The Popular and Scenic Route

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The Kinau Leaves Honolulu Every 10 Days,

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From Hilo to the Volcano—30 Miles,

Passengers are Conveyed in Carriages,

TWENTY-TWO MILES,

Over a SPLENDID MACADAMIZED ROAD, running most of the way through a Dense Tropical Forest—a ride alone worth the trip. The balance of the road on horseback.

ABSENT FROM HONOLULU 7 DAYS!

—TICKETS, \$1—

Including All Expenses,

For the Round Trip, :: Fifty Dollars.

For Further Information, CALL AT THE OFFICE, Corner Fort and Queen Streets.

General Advertisements.

We are Still Importing Goods.

Among other things the bark "G. N. Wilcox" brought us the following:

Hubbuck's Genuine, No. 1 and No. 3 White Lead, in 25, 50 or 100 lb. iron kegs.

Hubbuck's White Zinc, Red Lead, pale boiled and raw Oil. Stockholm and Coal Tar, in barrels or drums. Castile Soap, Shot, BB to No. 10, Punched Horse Shoes, Sal Soda, galv'd Anchors, Brush Door Mats, flexible steel and iron Wire Rope, Seine Twine, Harris' Harness Liquid, Day & Martin Blacking, galvanized Buckets and Tubs, Chain, blk. and galv'd 1/4 to 5/8; galv'd Sheet Iron, No. 16 to 26; Tinned Wire, Copper Wire, No. 10 to 20, black and galv'd Fence Wire, Nos. 4, 5 and 6, Blue Mottled Soap, Anvils, 70 to 200 lbs.; Blacksmith's Vises, all sizes; a large asmt. of Bar Iron, kegs Dry Venetian Red, Yellow Ochre, Paris Yellow, Burnt Umbre, Ult. Blue, Paris Green, Metallic Paint, etc.

Also, received ex Australia, 2600 asst'd Elect. Lamps, Hose, Butcher Knives, Carvers, Carriage Gloss Paint, Sulphur Bellows, Scissors, Shoe, Paint and Varnish Brushes; Buckles, Picture Cord, Furniture Nails, Tape Measures, Jennings Bits, Yale Padlocks, Oilers, galv'd Swivels, White Shellac, Gold Leaf, Leather Washers, and at last our fine asmt. of Wostenholm Pocket Knives and Razors has got here.

We were almost out of those fine swing Razor Stropps, but have a new lot this steamer. We have a full line of Electrical Goods, and can wire houses for Electric Lights on short notice. Now is the time to leave your order for wiring, as in a few months the current for lights can be furnished and then everyone will want lights at once, and those whose houses are wired will of course get lights first.

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Sheet Metal Goods in Tin, Copper or Galvanized Iron on hand or made to order.

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Repairs in the above branches, a specialty.

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